

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 03/08128

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

A surprisingly high yield of hydrocyanic acid produced by autothermal, non-catalytic oxidation from residues which contain organically bonded nitrogen is obtained by adjusting the following parameters, which are mentioned in independent claim 1 and made to match each other: dwelling time of the reaction mixture, atomic C/N ratio in the flame and atomic excess air coefficient. This is not suggested by the international search report citations. The claims therefore meet the novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability requirements.